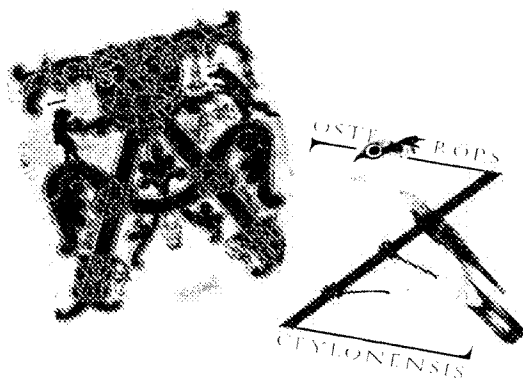


The
AMERICAN
HERITAGE®
dic·tion·ar·y
of
THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



fourth edition

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The American Heritage dictionary of the English language.—4th ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-395-82517-2 (hardcover) — ISBN 0-618-08230-1
(hardcover with CD ROM)

1. English language—Dictionaries

PE1628 .A623 2000

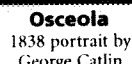
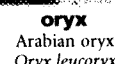
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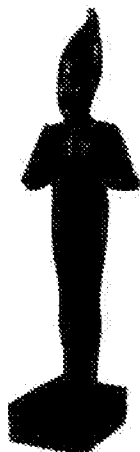
trop·ic (ôr'thə-trop'ik, -tro'pik) *adj.* 1. lending to gr

oscillāre, oscillat-, from *oscillum*, swing, probably from *oscillum*, snail.



ă pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
ir pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ā about, item
ō paw	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: ' (primary);
' (secondary), as in
dictionary (dīk'shə-nēr'ē)



Osiris
statue c. 19th–20th dynasty



Osman I
portrait from a 16th-century
illuminated manuscript



osmunda
cinnamon fern
Osmunda cinnamomea

mask of Bacchus, diminutive of *os*, mouth. See **ös-** in Appendix I.] —**os/cil•la'tor** *n.* —**os/cil•la'to'ry** (-la-tôr'ē, -tôr'ē) *adj.*

Word History The rather dry word *oscillate* may become a bit less dry when we learn its story. It is possible that it goes back to the Latin word *oscillum*, a diminutive of *os*, "mouth," meaning "small mouth." In a passage in the *Georgics*, Virgil applies the word to a small mask of Bacchus hung from trees to move back and forth in the breeze. From this word *oscillum* may have come another word *oscillum*, meaning "something, such as a swing, that moves up and down or back and forth." And this *oscillum* was the source of the verb *oscillare*, "to ride in a swing," and the noun (from the verb) *oscillatio*, "the action of swinging or oscillating." The words have given us, respectively, our verb *oscillate*, first recorded in 1726, and our noun *oscillation*, first recorded in 1658. The next time one sees something oscillating, one might think of that small mask of Bacchus swinging from a pine tree in the Roman countryside.

os•cil•lat•ing universe (ôs'ä-lä'ting) *n.* A closed-universe model in which the expansion of the universe slows and reverses, causing a collapse into a singularity. The singularity then explodes into a new universe, which repeats the cycle.

os•cil•la'tion (ôs'ä-lä'shän) *n.* **1a.** The act of oscillating. **b.** The state of being oscillated. **2.** A single oscillatory cycle. —**os/cil•la'tion•al** *adj.*

os•cil•lo•gram (ä-sil'ä-gräm') *n.* **1.** The graph traced by an oscillograph. **2.** An instantaneous oscilloscope trace or photograph. [OSCILLO (GRAPH) + -GRAM.]

os•cil•lo•graph (ä-sil'ä-gräf') *n.* A device that records oscillations, as of an electric current and voltage. [OSCILL (ATION) + -GRAPH.] —**os/cil'lo•graph'ic** *adj.* —**os/cil'lo•graph'ic•al•ly** *adv.* —**os/cil'log•ra•phy** (ôs'ä-lög'rä-fē) *n.*

os•cil•lo•scope (ä-sil'ä-sköp') *n.* An electronic instrument that produces an instantaneous trace on the screen of a cathode-ray tube corresponding to oscillations of voltage and current. [OSCILL (ATION) + -SCOPE.] —**os/cil'lo•scop'ic** (-sköp'ik) *adj.*

os•cine (ôs'in') *adj.* Of, relating to, or belonging to the Oscines, a large suborder of passerine birds that includes most songbirds. ♦ **n.** A bird of the suborder Oscines. [From New Latin *Oscinēs*, suborder name, from Latin *oscinēs*, pl. of *oscen*, bird used in augury. See **kan-** in Appendix I.]

os•ci•tance (ôs'ti-tans) *n.* Oscitancy.

os•ci•tan•cy (ôs'ti-tän-sē) *n.*, pl. **-cies** **1.** The act of yawning. **2.** The state of being drowsy or inattentive; dullness. [From *oscitant*, yawning, from Latin *oscitans*, *oscitant-*, present participle of *oscitare*, to yawn : *os*, mouth; see **ös-** in Appendix I + *citare*, to move; see **ket-** in Appendix I.] —**os/ci•tant** *adj.*

Os•co•Um•bri•an (ôs'kô-üm'brē-än) *n.* See **Sabellian**.

os•cu•la (ôs'kyä-lä) *n.* Plural of **osculum**.

os•cu•lant (ôs'kyä-länt) *adj.* **1.** Biology Intermediate in characteristics between two similar or related taxonomic groups. **2.** Closely adhering or joined; embracing. [Latin *osculans*, *osculant-*, present participle of *osculari*, to kiss. See **OSCULATE**.]

os•cu•late (ôs'kyä-lät') *v.* **-lat•ed, -lat•ing, -lates** —*tr.* **1.** To kiss. **2.** Mathematics To have three or more points coincident with. —*intr.* To come together; contact. [Latin *osculari*, *osculat-*, from *osculum*, kiss, diminutive of *os*, mouth. See **ös-** in Appendix I.]

os•cu•la'tion (ôs'kyä-lä'shän) *n.* **1a.** The act of kissing. **b.** A kiss. **2.** Mathematics A contact, as between two curves or surfaces, at three or more common points. —**os/cu•la'to'ry** (ôs'kyä-lä-tôr'ē, -tôr'ē) *adj.*

os•cu•lum (ôs'kyä-läm) also **os•cule** (-kyöl') *n.*, pl. **-cu•la** (-kyä-lä) also **-cules** The mouthlike opening in a sponge, used to expel water. [Latin *osculum*, diminutive of *os*, mouth. See **ös-** in Appendix I.] —**os/-cu•lar** *adj.*

-ose¹ *suff.* Possessing; having the characteristics of; full of; *cymose*. [Middle English, variant of *-ous*, from Latin *-osus*.]

-ose² *suff.* **1.** Carbohydrate: *fructose*. **2.** Product of protein hydrolysis: *protease*. [French, from *glucose*, *glucose*. See **GLUCOSE**.]

OSF *abbr.* Order of Saint Francis

Osh (ôsh) A city of southern Kyrgyzstan east-southeast of Tashkent, Uzbekistan. One of the oldest settlements of central Asia, it was long a major silk-producing center. Population: 219,000.

OSHA (ô'shə) *abbr.* Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Osh•a•wa (ôsh'ä-wä', -wə) A city of southeast Ontario, Canada, on Lake Ontario east-northeast of Toronto. Founded on the site of a French trading post, it is a manufacturing center. Population: 129,344.

Osh•kosh (ôsh'kôsh) A city of eastern Wisconsin on Lake Winnebago north-northwest of Fond du Lac. It grew as a lumber town in the latter half of the 19th century and today is a resort center with varied industries. Population: 55,006.

O•shog•bo (ô-shög'bô) A city of southwest Nigeria northeast of Ibadan. It is primarily a farm trade and commercial center. Population: 336,000.

os•sier (ôzhär) *n.* **1a.** Any of several willows having long rodlike twigs used in basketry, especially the Eurasian *Salix viminalis* and *S. purpurea*. **b.** A twig of one of these trees. **2.** Any of various similar or related trees. [Middle English, from Old English *osier* and Old French *osier*, both from Medieval Latin *osera*, *osiera*.]

O•si•jek (ô'sē-ëk, -yëk') A city of eastern Croatia on the Drava River east-southeast of Zagreb. The city grew on the site of a Roman colony and fortress and was under Turkish rule from 1526 to 1687. Population: 129,792.

O•si•ris (ô-si'ris) *n.* **Mythology** The ancient Egyptian god whose

annual death and resurrection personified the self-renewing fertility of nature.

-osis *suff.* **1.** Condition; process; action: *osmosis*. **2.** Disease of normal condition: *neurosis*. **3.** Increase; formation: *leukocytosis*. —*osis*, from Greek, *n.* *suff.*]

Os•kar II (ôs'kär) See **Oscar II**.

Os•ke•men (ôs'ka-mën', -mēn') or **Ust-Ka•me•no•gor** (ôs'ka-mën'ä-gôrsk', -mēn'ä-) A city of northeast Kazakhstan on the Irtysh River south of Novosibirsk, Russia. Founded as a military center in 1720, it is now a metallurgical center. Population: 334,000.

Os•ler (ôs'lär, ôz'l-) Sir **William** 1849–1919. Canadian physician and educator who was known as the most brilliant of his time. His *Principles and Practices of Medicine* is an influential textbook.

Os•lo (ôz'lô, ôs'l-) Formerly (1624–1925) **Chris•ti•a•nia** (ôz'ti-ä-nä', -än', -kris'chē-). The capital and largest city of Norway, in the southeast part of the country at the head of the **Oslo Fjord**, one of the Skagerrak. Founded c. 1050, Oslo was rebuilt and renamed by Christian IV (1577–1648; reigned 1588–1648). It has been the capital of the country since 1299. The Winter Olympics were held here in 1994. Population: 473,454.

Os•man I (ôz'män, ôs'-, ôs-män') also **Oth•man I** (ôz'män') 1258–1326? Founder of the Ottoman dynasty that ruled the Middle East after the 13th century. He controlled most of northwest Asia.

Os•man•li (ôz-män'le, ôs-) *n.*, pl. **-lis** **1.** An Ottoman Turk. [Turkish *osmanlı*; *OSMAN* + *li*, *suff.*]

os•mat•ic (ôz-mät'ik) *adj.* Having or characterized by a developed sense of smell. [From Greek *osmē*, smell.]

os•me•te•ri•um (ôz'mi-tir'ē-üm) *n.*, pl. **-te•ri•a** A glandular sac on the first thoracic segment of many insects that secretes an unpleasant-smelling substance to ward off predators. [New Latin *osmētērion*, from Greek *osmē*, smell.]

os•mic¹ (ôz'mik) *adj.* Of, relating to, or containing osmium. **1a.** In a compound with a valence of 4 or a valence higher than that of osmium. [OSMIUM] + *-IC*.]

os•mic² (ôz'mik) *adj.* Of or relating to odors or the sense of smell. [Greek *osmē*, smell + *-IC*.] —**os/mi•cal•ly** *adv.*

osmic acid *n.* See **osmium tetroxide**.

os•mics (ôz'miks) *n.* (used with a *sing. verb*) The sciences dealing with smells and the olfactory sense.

os•mi•ous (ôz'mē-əs) *adj.* Variant of **osmious**.

os•mi•rid•i•um (ôz'mä-rīd'ē-üm) *n.* A mineral that is an alloy of osmium and iridium with small inclusions of platinum, and other metals, used in needles and wearing points. [OSMIUM + IRIDIUM.]

os•mi•um (ôz'mē-üm) *n.* **Symbol Os** A bluish-white, lustrous element, found in small amounts in osmiridium, nickel, and ores. It is used as a platinum hardener and in making pen nibs, penograph needles, and instrument pivots. Atomic number 76; weight 190.2; melting point 3,000°C; boiling point 5,000°C; density 22.57; valence 2, 3, 4, 8. See table at **element**. [From *osmē*, smell (from the strong odor of osmium tetroxide).]

osmium tetroxide *n.* A poisonous compound, OsO₄, with a pungent smell, used in solution to stain and fix biological materials, and in lipids. Also called **osmic acid**.

os•mom•e•ter (ôz-môm'tēr, ôs-) *n.* A device for measuring osmotic pressure. [OSMO(SIS) + -METER.] —**os/mom•e'tric** (ôz'mô'trik, ôs'-) *adj.* —**os/mom•e'try** *n.*

os•mo•reg•u•la'tion (ôz'mä-rég'yä-lä'shän, ôs'-) *n.* The process of an optimal, constant osmotic pressure in the body of an organism. [OSMO(SIS) + REGULATION.] —**os/mo•reg'u•la'tion** (ôz'mô-rég'yä-lä'shän, ôs'-) *adj.*

os•mose (ôz'môs', ôs'-) *intr. & tr.v.* **-mosed, -mos•ing** To diffuse or cause to diffuse by osmosis. [Back-formation from *OSMOSIS*.]

os•mo•sis (ôz-mô'sis, ôs-) *n.*, pl. **-ses** (-sēz) **1a.** Diffusion through a semipermeable membrane from a solution with a lower concentration to a solution with a higher solute concentration. **1b.** The tendency of fluids to diffuse in such a manner. **2.** A gradual, unconscious process of assimilation or absorption: *learned French by osmosis while residing in Paris for 15 years*. [From obsolete *osmose*, from *endosmose*, from French : Greek *endo-*, *endo-* + Greek *osmos*, *ōthein*, to push.)] —**os/mot'ic** (-môt'ik) *adj.* —**os/mot'ic•ly** *adv.*

osmotic pressure *n.* The pressure exerted by the flow of a solvent through a semipermeable membrane separating two solutions of different concentrations of solute.

osmotic shock *n.* The rupture of bacterial or other cells following a sudden reduction in osmotic pressure. Osmotic shock is sometimes induced to release cellular components for biochemical analysis.

os•mous (ôz'mas) also **os•mi•ous** (-mē-əs) *adj.* Of, relating to, or containing osmium in a compound with a valence lower than that of osmium. [OSMIUM] + *-OUS*.]

os•mun•da (ôz-mün'dä) also **os•mund** (ôz'mänd) *n.* A genus of ferns of the genus *Osmunda*, having erect, bipinnately compound fronds and deeply contracted fertile pinnae. The fronds are sometimes used as a potting medium for cultivated plants, and the crosiers are used as food. [New Latin *Osmunda*, genus name]